

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Municipal Transportation in Bucharest

1. All streetcar lines, with the exception of No. 5, 14 and 15 have both a first-class and a second-class car; lines No. 5, 14 and 15 have but a single car which is considered second-class. In addition to the driver, there are two conductors in each car to sell and check tickets. 25X1
2. Streetcar fares vary according to class and distance traveled; first-class fares are either 30 or 40 bani, while second-class fares are either 25 or 35 bani. Weekly tickets cost 3.5 lei. Other reduced fare tickets for working people and students include the following:
 - a. Monthly tickets, valid for one line only, at 9.75 lei. They may be made valid for a maximum of three lines at increased prices. The monthly ticket is attached to a personal card with a photograph of the holder. It may be obtained by presenting either a student's card or a work certificate to the central offices of the streetcar lines on Strada Ilie Radu. An applicant does not have to appear in person; the ticket is issued to anyone who brings the photographs and the student card or the work certificate. The ticket must be renewed monthly at the same place.
 - b. Monthly tickets, valid for an unlimited number of trips at approximately 100 lei. They may also be made valid for specified lines or for all lines. The ticket is obtained by the procedure outlined above.
 - c. Monthly tickets for employees on official business at 17.50 lei. They are obtained by the employing enterprise, office, or factory, and the name of the employees who will use them are not submitted. Neither identity card nor any other certificate is needed for an employee who utilizes this type of ticket. Since the ticket does not bear the name of the person traveling, it is transferable.

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3. Soviets and members of the Militia may use the streetcars without paying. Although Rumanian soldiers are required to pay the same fares as civilians, this regulation is not closely observed.
4. Holders of monthly tickets, persons traveling free of charge on official business, and the majority of Bucharest residents usually take the first-class cars. Peasants and visitors from the provinces usually travel on the second-class cars.
5. Streetcars are generally crowded, particularly during the rush hours. Police seldom interfere with passengers hanging onto the railings and standing on the car steps, except in extreme cases of overcrowded cars. It is common practice to avoid buying a ticket, since inspections are infrequent and almost impossible to make. A passenger caught without a ticket is fined five lei. It is possible and customary to board the streetcar while it is in motion. A passenger may carry a large parcel on the streetcar without attracting attention, without being questioned about its contents, and without buying an additional ticket. No instances are known of identity checks being made on streetcars.
6. Taxis are operated under the control of the Municipal Transport Company (Interprinderea de Transport Bucuresti). They are painted a light khaki color with a line of black and white squares around the body. The fare is three lei for the first kilometer and one leu for each additional 300 meters. It is not customary to tip a taxi driver.
7. Privately-owned cars are rare. It is customary for professional men, officials, and private persons on urgent business to use taxis. The drivers employed by the municipal company are veteran drivers for the most part. Taxis are not normally stopped for identity checks of passengers inside the city limits.

Licenses

8. There are no special license plates for government automobiles. Cars and trucks carry the same type of plates, although they may vary in size and color according to the owner's wishes. Most plates have dark numbers on a white or light-colored background.
9. Bicycle licenses are issued by the municipal authorities and must be renewed yearly. Although license checks are seldom made in the city, the owner must carry his license at all times. Bicycles, either the Czechoslovakian or local product, are available in stores and may be bought without restriction; the price is usually over 1,000 lei. Long-distance trips by bicycle are not customary.
10. Although available in the stores, motorcycles are sold only on the basis of supporting documents and authorizations. Special authorization is not required for travel outside the city. Most motorcycle owners are young people.

Rail Travel

11. Travel by rail to all parts of the country, except to the frontier zones, is unrestricted. Tickets may be bought at railroad stations or at the ticket offices of the railroad company on Calea Victoriei or Calea Grivitei, and neither authorization nor identification is needed. Reservations for

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numbered seats, which has been introduced on some trains, may be made at the Calea Victoriei office.

12. A person who is not a passenger but who wishes to go on the station platform must buy a platform ticket at the station ticket office. He is not required to produce his identity card or other documents to buy a platform ticket. Ticket inspectors, who are railroad employees, guard the one or more entrances to the station platform, and one must show them either a platform or a train ticket. In rush hours, however, it is possible to slip through to the platform and board a train without having either ticket.
13. Militia guards patrol the station platforms, but they do not interfere with the people on the platform unless a person attracts special attention or suspicion by his behavior or by unusual baggage. In such cases the person must produce his identity documents on the spot and usually accompany the Militia guards to their office in the station for a baggage search. It is believed that the Militia guards at the stations are from the economic department of the Militia and are primarily looking for blackmarket activities, stolen, or smuggled goods. Members of the Securitate (DGSS) are not known to be on duty in railroad stations.
14. A passenger is not subjected to a ticket inspection or identity check when he boards a train. A person caught without a ticket during the train trip must pay a fine of two and one-half times the value of the ticket; however, if the person tells the conductor that he forgot to buy his ticket or that he lost his ticket, the fine is usually smaller. Identity cards or other documents are not required when one pays a fine. Identity checks or baggage inspection by Militia or Securitate personnel are very infrequently made aboard trains.
15. Railroad police personnel, armed with revolvers, are on duty at stations and may be distinguished from regular Militia personnel by the red top of their caps. They do not inspect tickets nor interfere with passengers. A railroad official is on duty in each coach, and he is usually accompanied by a ticket inspector. Neither Securitate, Militia nor Railway Police personnel are stationed as permanent guards on trains.
16. Although most railroad officials and inspectors are susceptible to bribery, it is both difficult and dangerous to approach them in the presence of other people. However, if they are approached while alone and are convinced of the person's bona fides, they are certain to accept a bribe.
17. Unless a passenger's baggage arouses suspicion, he is not required to identify himself when leaving the train nor is his baggage searched. Station exits are guarded by railroad employees who collect used tickets, but it is not too difficult to slip through the exits or to find a pretext for not returning the used ticket. However, it is difficult and dangerous to enter or leave a station other than by the official entrance and exit gates.
18. The only passengers who are requested to show their identity cards are those traveling on official business for their employers. They must present their identity cards to the railroad official who validates their travel orders with a visa cachet.

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19. First-class accommodations are used almost exclusively by officials traveling free of charge. Lower-ranking officials and townspeople on private business usually travel second-class, while workers and peasants travel third-class. The formalities of ticket inspection and identity checks are identical for all three classes.
20. Travel by freight train is not customary and is difficult. Militia personnel guard loaded freight trains, and a stowaway has little chance of avoiding detection. However, young people found riding freight trains are usually let off without punishment. It is assumed that railroad personnel on freight trains could be bribed, if they were approached alone and were not afraid of the Militia guards.

Identity Checks in Bucharest

21. The Militia carries out surprise checks of identity documents from time to time on the streets of Bucharest and in apartment houses, but always in different districts. People on the streets are required to produce their identity cards; no other documents are asked for and no other documents can replace the identity card for these checks. A passerby who is subjected to the identity check is not usually searched.
22. Identity checks in private apartments are usually made by one member of the Militia. He carries with him a list of occupants and determines if the list is current. Only the identity card is called for, and rooms are not searched. It is believed that the check on occupants of apartments is merely an administrative procedure to keep the lists current.

Telephone and Postal Service in Bucharest

23. The price of a local telephone call is 25 bani. A person who does not have a telephone in his home or apartment must make all interurban calls either from a post office or from a friend's home.
24. Formerly, letters to foreign countries could be sent only from a limited number of post offices, and persons receiving mail from abroad were so notified by the post office and had to call for their letters in person. The recipient also had to show his identity card when picking up his mail. The procedure for sending and receiving such mail is now identical with that for local mail.
25. A person who sends or receives registered letters, parcels, and money orders - both to and from local and foreign destinations - must show his identity card.

Restaurants and Entertainment in Bucharest

26. The following are first-class restaurants in Bucharest: Athenae Palace, Cina, Continental, Bucuresti (formerly Capsa), Vanatorul, Ambassador, Dumarea, and Mon Jardin. These restaurants are frequented by high-ranking Government and factory officials, Militia and Army officers, Soviet Army officers, and Soviet officials and their families. The patrons are fairly well dressed, in well tailored suits (dark for the greater part), and the women wear little jewelry except rings.

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27. All the first-class restaurants have orchestras and dancing (all Bucharest night clubs have been closed); most of them remain open to 2 AM, although some are open for dancing until 4-5 AM. Standard meals at 10 lei have been introduced, but they are not popular with waiters and management. An average meal at one of the first-class restaurants would be as follows: hors d'oeuvres (salad, sardines, etc.) or soup; a main course of fried meat (Friptura or Gratar) or Mititei (popularly known as Mici), or meat balls dressed with vine or cabbage leaf (Sarmale or Sarmalute), or a kind of Hungarian goulash (Tocana), or boiled meat (Rasol); and a fruit salad or ice cream. Guests usually drink beer or one of the five or six available brands of wine. Cigarettes can be bought from the waiter. Although a service charge of ten percent is included in the bill, it is customary to leave five to ten lei for the waiter. Identity checks in these restaurants are rare.
28. Restaurants of medium standards catering to the average citizen are dispersed throughout the city. They are open until midnight or 2 AM. Some of them have orchestras, with or without dancing. While standard meals are supposed to be served in all restaurants, they are available in only a few, and the average meal a la carte costs 10-15 lei. It is customary to order a glass of beer. Cigarettes can be bought at the cashier's counter. Identity checks are not made in these restaurants.
29. Small restaurants for workers are located almost exclusively in the suburbs.
30. There are many small pastry shops, either state or privately owned, which are open from 8-9 AM to 10-11 PM, among which the following are the best known: Republica (formerly Nestor), Bucuresti (separate from the restaurant), Victoria, Cafe de la Paix, and one on the sixth floor of the Universal Victoria (formerly Lafayette) department store. They are most crowded in the afternoon and evening hours, when guests usually sit for hours over coffee and pastries. It is not customary to read books or newspapers at these shops. No instance of identity checks are known.
31. There exist also canteens and restaurants for workers and officials at their place of employment and canteens limited to professional men. Persons who are not professional men or who are not employed at the factory or enterprise concerned are not admitted to these canteens.
32. Movie theaters in Bucharest usually run four shows daily, at 3, 5, 7, and 9 PM, although very popular films are occasionally shown in the morning hours. The most crowded show is the one at 7 PM. Seats are numbered in the larger theaters, and this practice is being introduced gradually in all theaters throughout the city. Tickets for the large central theaters are 2.5 - 3.5 lei, while those for the neighborhood theaters costs two lei. Identity checks are not made at movies.

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